



# Padre Island National Seashore SandDollar



**Friday, May 7, 2004**

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## **Superintendent**

Colin's schedule:

Friday, 5/7	– In the Park
Monday, 5/10	– In the Park
Tuesday, 5/11	– In the Park; Squad meeting 8:30 am
Wed., 5/12	– In the Park
Thurs., 5/13	– In the Park; Jesse Hereford (Sen. Kay B. Hutchison's Staffer) visits the park
Friday, 5/14	– In the Park; Meeting-Turtle Lab project-8:30 Chamber event- CC- 11:30 am

Marilyn's farewell potluck lunch will be held at noon Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> in the Maintenance building. The theme of the potluck is Tex-Mex and we will have fajitas. Sign-up sheets for side dishes to bring are located in HQ, Maintenance, the VC, and the Trailer.

## *Safety Notes--*

Your contributions are greatly appreciated for the SandDollar and the safety bulletin board. Please send safety contributions to Pat.

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe.

Make it a safe day.

## Administration

Temporary biological science technician, GS-0404-5, (2 positions) closes May 13. Applications must be sent to LBJ.

The park has been informed by the Flour Bluff Post Office staff that **change of address orders** from individuals who get mail in care of the park address, cannot be accepted.

If mail is received at the park for people no longer here, it needs to be forwarded. Their park address needs to be crossed out and their new address written in on the front of the envelope along with the words, "Please Forward." You do not need to put any postage on the envelope, only the new address and forward. Please do not cross out the names of the individuals as the Post Office needs to be able to read their name.

The people who are leaving need to let their division know this information so that division staff will be able to do this for them.

### TEL training

5/27            Heat injuries - reduce the risk of heat injuries  
(2 classes: 9-11:00 or 1-3:00). Contact Jeanie if you would like to attend.

The trailer will be used for TEL training on May 17 from 1-3:00 and May 20 from 8-12:00.

The TEL training registration has changed except for the Heat Injuries course listed above. For all future classes, you must notify Jeanie which course you want to take, she will have to register the site, then the employee will have to go to <http://mylearning.nps.gov> to register themselves for the class.

My Learning Manager will also have all other service wide training listed and the employee will sign up for classes/training. Once an employee registers for a class an email will automatically be sent to their supervisor for approval.

## UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:

DATE	DAY	BROADCAST	TIME
11-May	Tuesday	<b>The Interpretive Analysis Model for Supervisors</b>	12:00-4:00pm
12-May	Wednesday	attendance is required for both sessions to receive credit	
13-May	Thursday	<b>DOI Annual Ethics</b>	?
17-May	Monday	<b>Retirement Planning for New Employees</b>	2:00-4:00pm
20-May	Thursday	<b>Managing Workers Compensation Cases - Part 2</b>	?
25-May	Tuesday	<b>Preparing &amp; Presenting an Effective Interpretive Talk</b>	12:00-4:00pm
26-May	Wednesday	<b>Presentation Techniques</b>	12:00-4:00pm
27-May	Thursday	<b>Heat Loss Prevention</b>	?
3-Jun	Thursday	<b>The Interpretive Analysis Model</b>	12:00-4:00pm
8-Jun	Tuesday	<b>Interpretive Techniques/Create Opportunities for Connection</b>	12:00-4:00pm
10-Jun	Thursday	<b>Administrative Grievances-What You Don't Know Could Hurt You</b>	2:00-4:30pm
15-Jun	Tuesday	<b>Informal Interpretation</b>	12:00-4:00pm
16-Jun	Wednesday	<b>The Interpretive Process Model</b>	12:00-4:00pm
22-Jun	Tuesday	<b>Partnership Agreements</b>	?
13-Jul	Tuesday	<b>Grant Proposals for External Funding</b>	?
19-Jul	Monday	<b>NPS Recreation &amp; Preservation Programs</b>	1:30-3:30pm
10-Aug	Tuesday	<b>Dealing with Misconduct &amp; Progressive Discipline</b>	10:00-12:00pm
10-Aug	Tuesday	<b>Resolving Performance Issues</b>	2:00-4:00pm
26-Aug	Thursday	<b>Retirement Planning for New Employees</b>	2:00-4:00pm

## Facility Management

Luis has rescheduled his FMSS training from May to July. Dale Sorrell from DSC will be here in May to review the two-way radio installation. Luis is working on the Radio Tower Scope of Work Plan for its replacement this year.

Luis will have to take three FMSS/FCAS internet training sessions required by region before attending the Denver training in July.

The fire sprinkler contractor will probably start working on the upstairs part of the Headquarters building. Luis will try and get a schedule as to which offices will be impacted first.

The crew has done a great job installing the Vault Toilet tanks at BIB and should start with the building next week.

For your information if you want to see the status of work orders that are pending or have been done, go to the shared drive under FM and work orders.

The next Americorps team has arrived and will be helping out with a variety of projects. They will be in the park for approximately four weeks and, as always, we appreciate all their help. Say Hi! to them when you see them around.



back-lr..Justin-leader, Jacelyn, Adam, Aubrie, Tiffani,  
front-lr..Tara, Amy, Heather, Rob

On Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, Mary Kobus & David Vanecek were exiting the Malaquite parking lot when they spotted what they thought was a snake on the road. They stopped and David went to see what kind it

was and he noticed that it did not look like snake. On approaching, it reacted very suddenly and launched itself into the air and rapidly scooted away in the grass.

From past experience of having seen one before and by the shape of its head and the small ear openings, David determined that it was a "legless lizard." He had seen one once before about two years ago at the BIB boat ramp. Its real name is *Slender Glass Lizard* and they are native to the island.

## **Interpretation**

"The temperature's rising and so is the decibel level around the Visitor Center! It's springtime on Padre and the busses are pouring in, filled with excited school kids out to learn about the park. We are expecting approximately 3000 students between late April and the end of May. If you have an interest and a few minutes to spare, feel free to come down and check out the action. It's hard not to enjoy watching the excitement on the faces of so many first time beach goers.

We want to commend the hard working maintenance staff that has managed to keep things looking so good despite all the additional sand and trash being spread around. Also a big thank you to the folks at the entrance station and to Marilyn for coordinating all the fee waivers. The teachers all unanimously agree that the fee waiver and lack of fees for education programs are a big selling point with their administrators for getting field trip approval. These students represent the next generation of park supporters, so hopefully we can continue efforts to build school participation."

The next Adopt-a-beach clean-up will be on September 18.

## **Protection**

The Novillo Prescribed Fire has been postponed once again. Given all the water in the burn unit there is little likelihood that the fire will be conducted for at least another 3 plus weeks.

Shari Butler will be attending Fundamentals II at the Grand Canyon May 17-28. Douglass Briggs and Jason Lichtblau will be attending an Engine Academy in Lufkin 5/17-20. Randy Scoggins will be attending S-390 5/18-20.

The park received a phone call from a Mr. Clay Allen who wanted to express his appreciation to Pat and Randy S. for their assistance to him. He stated that Padre Island National Seashore "has the nicest ranger working here." Good work Pat and Randy!

For the weather watchers in the park we had nearly 5" of rain in April. That compares to Corpus Christi that measured over 9" at the airport and our typical April average of 2+".

## **Resources Management**

### **Projects:**

- During the International Shorebird Survey conducted on Wednesday 1500 shore birds of 23 species were counted between Ranger Road and the 2.5 MM. The survey will be conducted every ten days between May and July.
- RM staff mist-netted on Monday and banded 33 birds of species. New species banded for the year include Baltimore Oriole, Rose Breasted Grossbeak, and Scarlet Tanager. Thanks to Lisa and the Americorps for their assistance.
- We will be sampling the washover basin at the 46-MM Wednesday, May 14. Anyone interested in helping please contact Katie.

### **Oil and Gas:**

- Mustang Island Gathering located at Six Pigs has a pig pushing, so they are working on cleaning the condensation. This is the cause for more tanker activity on the beach. Their ATV escorts are now in compliance with park regulations.

- Oil & Gas operations are continuing in the park. Everything is going according to schedule with the well at Pan Am road.

## **Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery**

**Kemp's ridley nests 6, 7, and 8 found at the park!** Patrollers Luis Diaz, Leah Jean Shafer, and Linda Morehead found nesting Kemp's ridley turtles during our wet and windy weather on the weekend of May 1-2. At 1:15 pm on Saturday, Luis found a ridley that laid 105 eggs at the 21 mile marker. This beautiful turtle was one hatched here in 1987 as part of the experimental imprinting and head-starting project; we had not documented this turtle nesting before. At 7:15 pm on Saturday, Leah found a ridley that laid 105 eggs at the 26 mile marker. This remarkable turtle loves the park - we also documented her nesting here in 2000 and 2002. At 11:15 am on Sunday, Linda found a nesting turtle at the 27 mile marker. This turtle laid 112 eggs and had no tags linking her to the head-start project or previous nesting here. All three turtles were transported to the Turtle Laboratory and outfitted with satellite transmitters and their eggs were placed in the incubation facility.

Kemp's ridley nest 9 was found on Boca Chica Beach during the afternoon on Sunday May 2. Two eggs were found broken at the bottom of the nest. The 91 eggs that were found in-tact were transported to the corral on South Padre Island and the hatchlings from this nest will be released there in June.

**Hatchling releases will start this month** - Baby turtles hatched in our incubation facility here will be released here starting in late-May. The hatchlings are released when they are physically ready and enter their infantile frenzy, typically sometime during a span of a few days that Donna predicts. The release date predictions for the nests currently held in the incubation facility are listed in the table below. As during past years, the staff and public will be invited to attend many of our hatchling releases. However, it is not possible to invite people to watch those releases that occur when the turtles enter their frenzy at unpredictable times, during the night, or during weather conditions that could be unsafe for the turtles or people (ie.

thunderstorms, very high tides, etc.). So, to increase the chance of seeing a release, we advise interested individuals to try to attend when hatchlings from more than one nest are predicted to be released. As we near the predicted release dates for each clutch, Donna will update information about the releases on the Hatchling Hotline (telephone 949-7163). As during previous years, the Hatchling Hotline will be the best source of the most current information on the next release.

Predicted Release Dates for Nests Held in the Incubation Facility  
(note that nests 3, 4, and 9 are being held in a corral on South Padre Island)

Nest number	Species	Projected release date
1	Kemp's ridley	May 21-27
2	Kemp's ridley	June 2-8
5	Kemp's ridley	June 12-18
6, 7	Kemp's ridley	June 17-23
8	Kemp's ridley	June 18-24

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